

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for the manufacture of a perforated nonwoven, comprising directing a nonwoven between a first roller having an outer surface defining an outer circumference and heated perforation means extending outwardly from said outer surface about the entire outer circumference, and a second roller having an outer surface covered by a felt material, engaging the perforation means through the nonwoven and into the felt material of the second roller, and displacing fibres of the nonwoven with the perforation means and forming perforations in the nonwoven while also forming contours in the felt material;

wherein the first and second rollers are synchronized with one another such that the perforation means always engage the felt material at the same locations thereby forming openings in the felt material in which the perforation means always engage.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the perforation means are heated up to a temperature which is below a melt temperature of the nonwoven or a decomposition temperature of the felt material.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the felt material on the second roller is a shrinkable hose.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the perforation means displace the fibres of the nonwoven and push against the felt material, whereby the fibres are compacted and an opening in the nonwoven is stabilised.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 6, wherein, when the perforation means engage, fibres are at least in part forced out of the nonwoven, whereby the fibres form a structure which correspondingly exhibits a geometry of the perforation means,

which, after the nonwoven has run through the first and second rolls, rises from a surface of the nonwoven.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 6 wherein, when the perforation means engage into the felt material, fibres are at least in part drawn in sympathy into the felt material.

9 – 29 (Cancelled)

30. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the felt material has a thickness of greater than 5 mm.

31. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the perforation means are present on the first roll at a density of from 8 to 25 per cm².

32. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the perforation means comprise needles.

33. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said first and second rolls are rotated, and including the step of directing the nonwoven under tension onto the surface of the first roller.

34. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 33, including guiding the nonwoven around the surface of the first roller over a looping angle of greater than 90° with the perforation means remaining engaged with the nonwoven.

35. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 5, wherein the second roller is manufactured from metal and the shrinkable hose of felt material is pushed over the second roller so that an inner surface of the hose is in contact with a metal surface of the second roller and an outer surface of the hose forms an outer surface of the second roller.

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36. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the second roller is indirectly rotated by the rotation of the first roller due to engagement of the protrusion means of the first roller into the felt material of the second roller such that the first and second rollers rotate at the same rate.